

More student athletes join intramurals program

by Jeff-David Gray

Student participation in the intramural sports program has surged after program expansions. The newly-expanded program features soccer, softball, kickball, a billiards tournament and an extra season of flag football. Student Activities Coordinator Bryan Schmidt says that the Office of Student Activities also hopes to offer bowling tournaments in the future.

The office hopes to initiate outdoor activities in the future as well. Schmidt said the program will consist of low-risk mountain biking, camping, canoeing and hiking. "There is a big need for (outdoor activities) that is not being addressed," said Schmidt.

However, citywide championships are the direction Schmidt hopes the LSUS-based intramural sports program will travel. These championship tournaments will pit LSUS intramural sports champions in their respective categories against competing teams from other local colleges.

These plans come just as enrollment of students participating in the intramural sports programs surpasses the targeted 120 participants, with participants numbering more than 200.

Also new in the Office of Student Activities is the Web site which has a link from the LSUS home page.

Students can use the Web site to register for sports, and team captains can post team rosters and notes to the team members.

Schmidt credits a lot of the program's current success to the student workers in the office.

Senior exercise science major Jeremy Chereene led the group of students last semester.

Schmidt said, "He deserves a

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the Almagest

March 20, 2003

I need a hook up.

Volume 43, Number 7

Snack prices increase in vending machines

by Penne Jennings

There has been a price increase not only for those who purchase items out of the food and drink vending machines, but also those who choose to buy from the LSUS Bookstore.

Jimmy Wilmore is the owner of Shreveport Tom's Full Line Vending, which has been a locally-owned business for 34 years and has the contract with LSUS to provide snacks to the students.

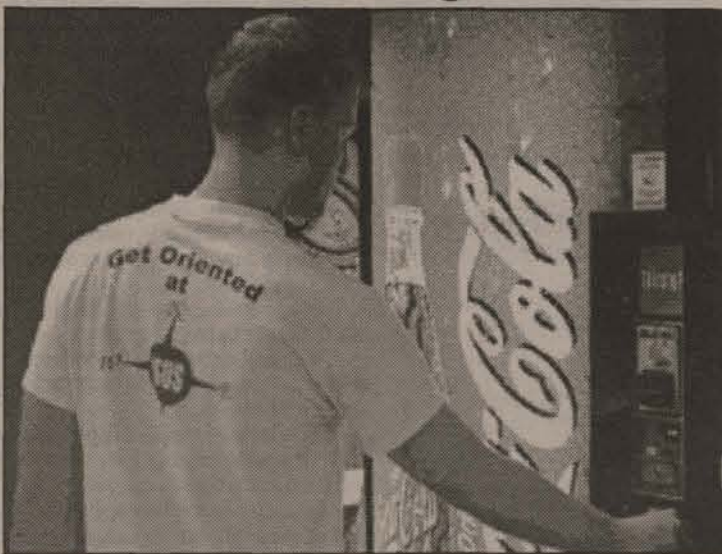
Wilmore says his company has had several increases on candy, chips and other goods over the last couple of years. He does not raise the price in the vending machines every time he is confronted with a penny increase.

However, when the increases accumulate to approximately 25 cents, he has to raise prices to stay in business.

"Some companies have an increase every two to four years, and there are some that have an increase every year," Wilmore said pointing out the increase of gas prices, insurance and payroll for his company.

Several criteria contribute to making the decision to increase prices in the vending machines and the bookstore. Wilmore said he is a consumer like the rest of us and feels frustration about price increases like everyone else.

Anita Ramsey, a junior management administration major, noticed the price increases right away. She is considering stopping at the store on the way to school or bringing a beverage from home instead of purchasing the bottled



Freshman pharmacy major Calder Dunn notices the higher prices.

drinks from the vending machine. In reference to the bottled drinks that increased to \$1.10, she said, "It's easier to grab a dollar out of your purse than a dollar and a dime."

Ramsey said that the vending machines at her place of employment have also had a price increase. She understands the need for competition and feels it is fair; however, she feels the prices are just too high in general.

Even though the bookstore has not implemented this price increase, it will be doing so soon. Wilmore says he had to ensure that the bookstore was going to raise its prices before he could implement the increase

in the vending machines. He does not want the students to boycott the vending machines for the bookstore or vice-versa.

Wilmore said the prices are going to end up being within pennies of each other between the machines and the bookstore. For example, the vending machine price for a candy bar is 65 cents with tax included.

If you purchase one from the bookstore that is 60 cents, you will pay tax on it bringing the total within pennies of 65 cents. Wilmore pointed out that 90 percent of his vending machines at other places have candy bars priced at 70 cents, which is higher than vending machines on campus.

Process changes for Professor of the Year; SGA elections continue through Monday

by Candice Leone

At their latest meeting, the SGA came to an agreement on how votes will be counted for the annual "Professor of the Year" award. The contest is held each spring and runs concurrent with the SGA elections. This year, the elections are scheduled March 17-24.

In the past, each LSUS student was allowed to nominate up to five of his or her favorite instructors for the honor. Then, the nominations would be counted and a list of 20 professors who received the most votes would be honored at a reception. The professor who topped the list with the highest number of nominations won the title of "Professor of the Year."

This year, however, the SGA decided to allow only one nomination per student. The SGA hopes this process will alleviate most of the complications involved with sorting out the votes that are cast. Gloria Raines, vice chancellor of student affairs and the SGA adviser, counts the votes each year and said that the

"I like the idea of one vote because it's clear... it's more pure."
Terrance Neal, senator at large

new system of voting will make calculating easier because of frequent misspellings in professors' names.

Terrance Neal, senator at large, said that he believes the one vote change is a good thing. "I like the idea of one vote because it's clear cut... it's more pure," he said.

This year, the SGA hopes that students wishing to nominate someone for the award will include the professor's complete first and last name, as well as the correct spelling.

In the past, if it was unclear which teacher the vote was for, it did not get counted at all.

The SGA also hopes that voter turnout for the election improves. The election is conducted through the Blackboard system on the LSUS Web site, making the process simple and convenient. However, over the

last few years the number of voters has been less than impressive. The SGA hopes that will change this year.

The SGA Student Affairs Committee is in the process of creating slogans and flyers to inform students of when the election begins and ends and encourage them to vote.

In other business, the senate discussed the possibility of making the SGA Web site the homepage in all campus computer labs. Currently, the LSUS Web site is displayed as the home page, but President Jeff Strozier said he thinks that the change is something the SGA should look into.

"It would be good publicity," Strozier said. It was also mentioned that the computers in the library be changed along with the others.

Red River Radio to begin spring fundraiser to ease operational costs

by Ashley Speckman

The Red River Radio Network will try to raise \$295,000 in its biannual fund drive. The money raised will help go toward operational costs. The network includes KDAQ, KLSA, KBSA and KLDN.

Playing classical music during the day and jazz programming in the evening, the station receives a syndicated news service from NPR from 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m..

One of the reasons for the fundraiser is that NPR has changed their policy from charging stations per member to charging by the number of listeners. KDAQ has about 6,000 members while it has approximately 120,000 listeners per week.

Sixty percent of the budget comes from member donations while 40 percent comes from grants, both federal and state, and corporate sponsorships.

The station holds two fundraising drives each year trying to raise half of the membership budget. This year's drive will begin Wednesday, March 26 at 7 a.m. and will conclude on April 7 at 7 p.m. If the goal is met prior to April 7, then the fundraising drive will end.

"I don't think the recession will have a negative effect on fundraising," said Wendi Bryant, membership coordinator.

Bryant said in the event that war is declared, the fundraising drive will be postponed in order to offer 24-hour news coverage.

The station needs the help of volunteers to work the phone bank and take donations.

Organizations that provide three or four volunteers to work a shift will receive four announcements on the day of their choice.

"You can wish someone happy birthday or promote an event," said Bryant. Volunteers are welcome at anytime but peak times are during the news programs from 7-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m.

People that make donations will receive gifts from the network ranging from coffee mugs, baseball caps, or the Best of No Cover CD.

To make a donation online go to www.redriverradio.com. For more information about volunteering, contact Wendi Bryant at 797-5150.

The Almagest

("al-meh-jest". n): Arabic: "The Majestic"
any of several medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge
(as the 9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy's
Greek work on astronomy)
- Webster's Third New International Dictionary

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From the editor

There are more important things than campus activities... like the classroom.

For many students, involvement at school means only going to class.

In the afternoons the campus becomes a ghost town and it is rare to see a student here other than those who have a student worker job.

Most other students have to rush away to other commitments like work after class.

So it is difficult for most students to get involved in on-campus issues and activities.

This so-called student apathy can be illustrated by looking at the Student Government Association.

The elections this week went uncontested because very few students were interested in running for a senate seat.

When we held a "debate" in the Port, not many students paid attention.

It is disheartening for members of the SGA senate to see what little response they get from the student body.

The lack of student input can be interpreted as student apathy or it can be seen as students being satisfied with the status quo.

In many cases this apparent apathy is just a result of students not having time to get involved.

For retention purposes, however, the lack of involvement on campus can be a warning sign.

University officials have been fighting against this apathy as part of their efforts to increase retention.

College can be a time when we expand our horizons and get involved in issues beyond ourselves for the first time.

Knowing that getting involved is the best way to keep students here, the school has tried to publicize different ways students can become part of the university community outside the classroom.

But these attempts can easily fail when students don't find opportunities that satisfy their educational needs.

We have been criticized in the past for encouraging students to search elsewhere for better opportunities.

The Almagest has often been accused of harming retention and recruitment efforts by sending a negative message to students.

We don't believe it is the job of the Almagest to recruit for the school.

The Almagest attempts to be a reflection of

our campus environment, and we believe that the intent of the paper should be an honest portrayal of the university rather than slanted propaganda.

Sometimes in our attempts for constructive criticism we may seem too harsh.

When we advised students to seek other opportunities, we obviously weren't talking about everyone.

As editors of the paper we've been able to reap great benefits from the university by getting hands-on experience in the field of journalism.

And most of us have stayed at the school because of the excellent instruction we have gotten. We've learned a lot while we've been here, but not everyone can find something at LSUS that interests them the way we have.

We believe that the interests of the students come before the interests of the university.

And some students may find that LSUS isn't the place for them. If it is better for them to go elsewhere, then they should do so.

Additionally, it should be considered that students who cannot find a place at LSUS bring the rest of us down by lowering standards as they struggle.

However, by looking at the students who do stay one can easily find a solution to the problem.

Good professors are key to making the environment of a university fertile ground for learning.

The instruction we receive is the most important reason to come to this school. Not activities, not clubs and not free food.

To show our appreciation for our professors, the SGA holds a Professor of the Year contest on Blackboard in connection with elections.

While many students may not feel the elections are worth their time because SGA doesn't concern them, every student should be interested in showing his or her appreciation for the best professors on the campus.

The classroom is the most important part of the university. And professors are the ones who determine how effectively that classroom is used.

Every student here participates in class and in the end it is the classroom that will retain more and better students, not publicity.

-mm

Are we wrong?
Then write a letter
explaining why.

e-mail us at
almagest@pilot.lsus.edu
or stop by Bronson Hall 344
If you don't correct us, we will.



HOW SADDAM HUSSEIN PREPARES FOR WAR

Cartoon by Michael Scott

Clarifications

Last week our headline to the story on Amber Salas's visit to the LSUS SGA incorrectly identified her as a Board of Regents student representative. In fact, she's the representative to the Board of Supervisors.

We also mistakenly listed the Baptist Collegiate Ministry as one of the organizations on probation by the SOC. SOC Secretary Katherine Robbins pointed out that we should have said Campus Ministry is on probation. BCM is in fact one of the most active and well organized groups on campus, and we're sorry about the mistake. We've also left them out of the recent calendars of events, but

Letters to the editor

Conservative supports war, criticizes liberals

Joel Warne,
journalism sophomore

In response to a recent letter from a concerned student, Umar Hussain, about the disadvantages of war, I felt a need to assert opposing views.

The arguments brought up by Mr. Hussain were irrelevant, redundant and held no factual weight in any conceivable case.

I would assume that by referring to George Bush as "King George I," he was developing his case toward the "anti-war" world the mainstream media is insistent on showing us.

Every day on the mainstream media you see anti-war protests, marches and demonstrations.

However, what you don't see are the millions of people marching around the world in a pro-war effort.

You go onto online message boards, which are dedicated to the debate of war versus non-war campaigns, and you see nothing but disgruntled whiney liberals!

I can see how easy it would be for the simple-minded to fall under the conclusion that this truly is a divided nation, but, my friends, it is anything but that.

You see fewer pro-war comments on these boards because those who support the war aren't under the obligation to complain.

Why would the mainstream media (specifically CNN, which to my knowledge is partially funded by Democratic organizations) do something as absurd as distort the facts?

Because, what's a greater way to win votes in 2004 for the Democrats?

Now, for a retort against Mr. Hussain's two specific arguments. He first argued that it is up to the Security Council to decide whether or not we go to war with Iraq.

And he is wrong.

I don't think I need to argue the fact that the Security Council is anything but relevant.

We house it, we fund it, we moderate it, and we ARE it.

The UN and Security Council are jokes and a cheap attempt to give

third world countries a chance at international politics.

We, my fellow Americans, are NOT obligated to get permission from the U.N. to retaliate against an attack on our country, and whoever believes this watches too much CNN.

Saddam Hussein has funded terrorist groups in the past (and yes ladies and gentlemen, we have proof), built an arsenal of chemical warheads (and used them during their conquest of Kuwait!) and will continue to do so until out of power.

Secondly, he brings up the many Iraqi exiled that seek network attention in the United States to preach about the evils of Iraq and how they won't be calculated in the casualties.

Here, I'm failing to see Mr. Hussain's point. Saddam is raping (yes folks, he has rapists on his government payroll), gassing and torturing his people by the thousands!

Either way, civilians are going to die... I'd prefer it to be under the pursuit of freedom and liberty, something which they have never had.

So a few people managed to escape Hitler, I mean Hussein, and they won't be citizens in the midst of first, who cares?

Lastly, he brings up possible anti-American sentiments that could spawn from the Middle East in response to a post-war Iraqi, American puppet, government.

Let me ask you this, is Japan's thriving economy an American puppet?

General McArthur - who took over their government and restructured their fiscal structure and gave them the economy they have today, one of the most expansive technological economies in the world - installed Japan's government and economy!

They are now subject to an economy that every nation on the face of the earth should have the opportunity to achieve!

That's the "American Dream" in practice, that every man has access to the basic necessities of life, i.e. food, shelter, water and warmth, which the Iraqis are denied by their leader.

My point is that out of all the nations that are against the war, one of them that is on our side is Iraq. In

such an unjust war, why would this be the case?

Saddam is a modern Hitler. He tried to take over Kuwait just as Hitler tried to take over Europe in the 1940s.

Now, North Korea is being used as a diversion of attention from the Middle East to the Pacific Northwest and its not working.

It's too much of a coincidence that while Saddam is being accused of obtaining chemical warfare; North Korea comes out of the blue and loudly proclaims that they have obtained it.

As for the Middle Eastern countries, whether they hate us after the war is irrelevant.

They hate us now!

I think anyone who claims Iraq is O.K. as it is should be stripped of their citizenship and sent to live in Iraq for just one week as an Iraqi citizen and then come back and tell us again that this is an unjust war.

Nothing would change in the Middle East, as long as the Arab political regimes fail to obtain the glory that the West has obtained they will continue to be run by angry, jealous, narcissistic tyrants of the degree of Saddam Hussein.

Break the cycle now, and one day even we may be able to sleep in peace.

Quit listening to everything you hear on the news.

Liberals now love to accuse Conservatives of listening to too much political propaganda, and they say, if you want real news listen to foreign news.

If you think that the Liberals and Foreigners, alike, are fed any less political propaganda than the conservatives, you're just as uniformed as Mr. Hussein.

This war hosts a multitude of monstrous opinions, but no one seems to know the facts.

We're all puppets of political propaganda, even the French.

You might as well spend your time liberating a tortured people and installing a productive economy in the process!

Besides, last time I checked the national polls, Bush was ahead in the projections for the 2004 election.

Go Bush!

Students respond to letters against war

Clay McGee,
Grad. Student

Randy Patrick,
junior

Reading the Almagest over the past few months leads us to believe that continued research in the Human Genome Project will lead to the discovery of a "stupid gene."

Since the start of the semester the Almagest has published articles from the vocal minority and ridiculed the silent majority and president.

Nowhere in the paper can you find any articles by people who support the president or our current war on terror.

We decided to write this article in response to the many leftist articles that have been published by "our" school newspaper.

The articles that have been submitted and published so far by this paper have been devoid of fact and logic.

Most articles degraded to name calling and personal insults within the first few lines.

Now as this is a college paper, some logic should accompany any argument.

The articles printed so far would be ok, if they were written for and by the students of University Elementary.

The fact of the matter is that the United States is fighting a war on terrorism, not on Al Qaeda or Bin Laden or even Iraq.

This war will entail military action in many countries beginning with Afghanistan and certainly not ending with Iraq.

The utter neglect of foreign policy by the previous administration has left the current president with not only a diplomatic but military mess to clean up (see massive budgetary cuts to our CIA human intelligence).

Relying on the United Nations to stop or even curb any atrocities is a futile effort.

They have never been able to prevent such acts, as apparent by their inaction in Rwanda and other

African countries.

Where was the United Nations on September 11?

Where were they during the embassy bombings in Africa or the troop barracks bombing in Saudi Arabia?

Where were they when the U.S.S. Cole was attacked?

How many times does the United States have to be attacked before we realize that the United Nations is unable or unwilling to protect us!

What's even more apparent is that after 17 U.N. resolutions they have no desire on intentions of forcing Saddam Hussein to disarm.

He has been in violation of U.N. resolutions since three weeks after the end of the Gulf War.

That's since 1991 folks!

We appreciate the voice of the very vocal minority; it's their God-given American right to voice their opinion.

However, we do not want the people who read this paper to think this is the view of the majority of students at LSUS.

The majority believes that the president should do whatever he needs to do to protect the citizens of the United States.

The majority also believes that conducting foreign policy based on Gallup polls from Hollywood, Calif. will lead this country to utter ruin.

In addition, the silent majority believes the downfall of the United States will not come at the hands of terrorists, but at the hands of liberal leftists who will allow our enemies in the front door and serve them snacks.

So if you want to argue your point, bring facts, logic, and for God's sake bring some content.

Because, if you want to argue based on name calling, we suggest you take a trip to the nearest third grade school yard so you can get your intellectual ass-kicked by some over developed third grader who has a couple of "your momma" jokes.

Editor's note: these students are responding to letters, not articles. In letters to the editor, any student is encouraged to express his or her opinion. Articles are supposed to present all possible points of view, without opinion from the reporter.

Quinton Bell describes life in Satiristville, Ala.

Quinton Bell
History Major
Guest Columnist

Once upon a time, in a small town called Satiristville, Alabama there grew a very popular newspaper called "The Satirist Times".

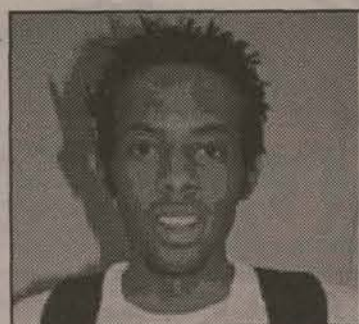
They wrote stories about the mayor, the police sheriff, and the baker's mistress.

All the people in Satiristville knew one another; there were exactly two sides of Satiristville.

Oddly enough, the two sides of town described perfectly the two types of ideologies in Satiristville.

On one side of town, there were lots of trees and many families. Instead of driving to work or school they would ride bikes.

The people seemed so relaxed,



and they had even petitioned their city council to reject the Patriot act.

However, on the other side of town people lived in huge plantation-like mansions, and at every chance they got they drove their huge climate-changing SUVs.

They also fashioned a few political causes. For example, abortion

in their eyes was murder so they held rallies on the edge of town protesting the other side's use of abortion.

Get this, these were not just female events, the men, who could never physically have children, protested perhaps more violently than the women.

The two sides hated each other, but what is interesting is how they began to hate each other.

The Satirist Times, before the hatred, had a full section of opinion.

Each side of town released their best arguments in this opinion section, and the two sides would meet in social gatherings and discuss which side of town was right.

It was all a very inclusive discussion until one day one of the editor's saw a letter and was so

displeased that she decided to write an opposition article in that same issue.

In the face of ethical newspaper behavior, she decided that the article was just flat out wrong, and that it needed to be rebuked.

Now the policy for the town was that each side of town the newspaper would contribute opposing views.

The writers would never get the chance to see their opponent's arguments. This editor however, would be able to see the opposition's arguments and then respond.

So that's what she did and to be fair to her she annihilated the argument presented by the original writer.

But the privilege she had allotted herself brought about a huge

wave of anti-Satirist Times sentiment from one side of town.

The other side just began to say that all was fair and that the relaxed side of town should just accept their place as losers.

From this point on the two sides hated each other and even had fought a brief civil war, but the point is that never again did they cross the tracks for mingling.

I guess the moral of this story is that newspaper editors should follow the same rules on the opinion page as the public has to follow.

Hell Satiristville, Alabama was never the same once the editor stepped beyond the rules and created a privilege for one side of an argument.

Editor's response: Heh heh.

Self-defense seminar to teach safety to women

by Jessica Matlock

The Student Activities Board is sponsoring a seminar before Spring Break that will teach women the art of self-defense. Campuspeak presentations will be sending Erin Weed to instruct campus women on how to protect themselves from violence.

Erin Weed is a 1999 Eastern Illinois University graduate with a degree in public relations who formed the organization Girls Fight Back which deals with women's self-defense.

Weed is very accomplished in martial arts and was taught by FBI agents, marines, retired police officers and third-degree black belts on how to defend oneself in carjacking scenarios, multiple assailant attacks and the defense and offense of knives and other street weapons. She was also taught Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, firearms training, the psychology of criminals and laws in judicious use of force.

Weed's program is coming to LSUS Tuesday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m. in the Webster room and at 7 p.m. at the U.C. Apartments club house. It will feature a lecture and a hands-on self-defense training.

Weed's lecture includes the unfortunate story of her close friend and Alpha Phi sorority sister Shannon McNamara, who was murdered in her apartment near the EIU campus. After the attack Weed realized that women needed to be informed in self-defense, so she began Girls Fight Back to do so.

Weed has been certified as a women's self-defense instructor by the American Women's Self-Defense Association.

"I want to encourage women to stand up for themselves, but more importantly, I want them to leave with the confidence and the knowledge to do so," Weed said.

Assistant Director of Student Activities Kathleen Grimmett encourages all women to attend the seminar. The program will educate women in practical weapons carried in the average woman's purse and how to feel safe in today's world. The interactive program requires attendants to wear comfortable clothing and be ready for physical contact, because Weed believes the best way to learn is hands-on.

During the physical program women will learn striking techniques, take-downs and skills in avoiding crimes. A male volunteer will be acting as the assailant to give women an idea of what they may be up against in a real situation.

In today's world women need to be aware of their own strength and power against an attacker.

With all the events in southern Louisiana involving a serial killer terrorizing women of the region, women may want to know how to handle a situation that could arise unexpectedly.

According to an article in the March 13 issue of "The Shreveport Times" there were few attendees at a similar seminar at LSU-Baton Rouge, which may be shocking to some individuals considering the



Courtesy Photo

Erin Weed will hold a seminar to teach LSUS women self-defense

high alert women of the Baton Rouge area are under while the apprehension of the serial killer is still unresolved.

The Girls Fight Back seminar is designed to help women defend themselves from such attackers by teaching how to avoid making themselves the targets of crime, knowing what to do if they are attacked, preventing sexual assault, understanding why crime happens, know the importance of trusting one's "gut feeling" and knowing the state laws regarding reasonable use of force.

Weed teaches women's self-defense at the Modern Warrior Academy in Long Island, N.Y., along with her membership to the American

Women's Self-Defense Association and her dedication to Campuspeak. For more information on Erin Weed or other programs with Campuspeak, log on to www.campuspeak.com or contact the Student Activities office at 797-5393.

Biological and Health Sciences Club incorporates science, family activities

by Joel Warne

Out from the silence of our student organizations comes the loud vibrant pounding of the Biological and Health Sciences Club.

LSUS's Biological and Health Sciences Club is one of the most active clubs on campus.

On March 27, Dr. Scott Kennedy of the Admissions Board at LSU Medical Center is set to inspire and forewarn club members on exactly what it takes to make the grade in medical school.

Through demonstration and lecture, Kennedy will educate those who attend, giving them the extra edge they need to achieve their ultimate goals.

Club members are also anticipating Family Night at Chuck E. Cheese. The club members and their families will get together for a night of fun at the local Chuck E. Cheese on March 21.

The schedule of events was head-lined by a Science Olympiad on Saturday, March 8. Other events are to be announced.

For further information contact the club officials.

All majors and categories of students are eligible to join the club, which hosts a wide variety of events.

Currently, all science majors are represented as well as some areas of business and liberal arts.

The benefits and scholastic privilege of membership does not come without cost, however.

Membership fees are currently \$10 per semester.

Members are expected to pay all dues, attend all meetings and attend at least two club functions.

"Joining the Biology Club gives students the inside scoop on science," said Brynn Forbrich, club president. "It is a goal of ours to inform students planning on a future in science on everything that is out there."

Students who join the Biology Club are invited to seminars presented by both on and off campus speakers on current topics in the health and science industries.

They also receive one-on-one attention from the professors and get their first opportunity to make a name in the science world.

The adviser for the club is Beverly Burden associate professor of biological sciences.

Forbrich has been a member for two years and previously held the position of secretary.

She works in a research lab at Biomedical Research Institute and has published articles.

Forbrich is a junior in the biology department and also serves on campus as a teacher's assistant for Biology 222 labs.

She plans to finish her education in medical school.

REPORTS OF ARMY SIGHTINGS IN YOUR AREA



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Career Center panel promotes experiential education, internships

by Becky Mayo

The LSUS Career Center will be sponsoring an experiential learning and internship panel on March 27 during Common Hour.

The purpose of the panel is to let students know of the importance of having hands-on experience in their chosen field before graduation.

The Career Center is sponsoring this event along with Phi Eta Sigma.

These two organizations do not think enough students are aware of internship programs. Former LSUS students along with faculty and current students will be available at the panel to answer any questions.

They will also help direct students to what type of interning job would be right for them.

Jennifer Carter, assistant director of the Career Center, has discovered that many students do not know what an internship is.

"An internship is a semi-professional position that allows students to obtain career-related work experience while attending college," Carter said. "We find that students that have had an internship or experiential learning while attending LSUS find it very beneficial."

The Career Center also sponsors the Disney World Recruitment. Students from LSUS have participated in this program and found it to be a great opportunity.

Sammi Bell, a freshman in political science, interned at Disney World during the fall 2002 semester.

Bell said that the benefits of her internship were "tremendous."

"Working with a program like Disney World was a huge opportunity. It made me look at work in a different light," said Bell.

Bell said that her Disney World position gave her experience with people of different attitudes and how to deal with them professionally.

Bell also said that it allowed

"Students need to have the chance to acquire ... knowledge ... from having hands-on experience."

Bobbie Deville

junior accounting major

her to obtain an excellent work ethic and better self-confidence.

Internships such as those at Disney World are not the only internships available.

Local businesses have internship positions to be filled as well.

Bobbie Deville, a junior accounting major, has also participated in experiential learning.

She sat out during the fall 2002 semester to work full-time at McKay Consulting, Inc., an accounting firm that audits Medicare and Medicaid accounts within hospitals nationwide.

"Working at this firm allowed me to see the auditing side of accounting. This is something that I have not learned while sitting in the classroom," said Deville.

Denville also said that working with professionals gave her a better understanding of what the "real accounting world" is like.

Denville feels that students should participate in some type of internship program, no matter what type of field they are in.

"Students need to have the chance to acquire the type of knowledge I learned from having hands-on experience," Deville said.

Carter said that the Career Center can help students get an internship position such as these.

"All students have to do is visit us here at the Career Center, and we will try to get them plugged in. The benefits will be well worth it," said Carter.

Shreveport Journalism Foundation gives \$1,000 scholarship to senior student

by Becky Mayo

Last month the Shreveport Journalism Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee selected Julie Petchak, student editor of LSUS News, to receive the \$1,000 Orland Dodson Scholarship.

Petchak, a senior journalism major, won the award by writing a 250-word essay about being a journalist.

She competed with other upper-level college students who live in the 10-parish area of Northwest Louisiana.

Gregg Trusty, the president of the Shreveport Journalism Foundation, said that Petchak's essay is the best he has seen in years.

"Julie wrote an exceptional essay and obviously has exceptional talents. She will do well at any career she chooses," said Trusty.

Trusty also says that the committee's choice was unanimous in picking Julie as their winner.

"We were sorely disappointed in the number of applicants that we had," said Trusty. "But after reading Julie's essay, it wouldn't have mattered if we had 10 times the number of essays."

Petchak, who works in the Media and Public Relations office, says that she was "surprised and extremely excited" when she received the news that she was the recipient of the scholarship.

"I found out that I won the scholarship while I was at work. My employers brought me in the office like I was in trouble. Then they told



Photo by Allison Burns

Julie Petchak will use the \$1,000 to help with graduate school.

me that I had won \$1,000. I was so happy," said Petchak.

Petchak said that she entered the contest because she thought winning \$1,000 would be a tremendous help as graduation approaches.

"College students need all the financial help they can get," said Petchak with a smile.

She also says that she was honored to be chosen as the winner of the scholarship.

Dr. Jack Nolan, the chair of the department of communications, said that he has always felt that the students at LSUS could compete with any student from other state colleges.

From having previously taught Julie, he was not surprised at her achievement.

"Julie is a very bright student,

and she well represents her fellow students," said Nolan. "We were very pleased with her representation of LSUS."

Nancy Cook, who is a member of the foundation, suggested that both scholarships should go to Petchak.

However, the rules of the contest could not allow that to happen.

In her essay, Petchak said that she hopes to make a difference in the world by searching for the truth and delivering it to the public.

She wrote that "journalism is key to the functioning of our society."

Petchak will be using the money next year as she continues her education in law school. She plans on attending LSU in Baton Rouge.

Campus Crime Blotter

March 12

12:30 p.m. The director of the University Court Apartments called campus police when a man who had been banned from the apartments was seen there. Officers detained the man briefly and asked him to leave the property. His ban was reinforced.

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go see **Montey!!!**

Preview weekend showcases opportunities, activities to prospective LSUS students

by Becky Mayo

More than 100 parents and students attended the LSUS preview last weekend.

Around 4,000 invitations were sent out to students who sent ACT scores to the LSUS admissions office or filled out information cards in their high school counselor's office.

The admissions office also sent out packets of invitations to six area parishes and posted information about the preview on the LSUS admissions office website.

According to Assistant Director of Admissions Kristy Paul the first night of the preview was fun taking the prospective students to a Pilots game as a "preview" of athletic events held at LSUS.

Sarepta High School senior Heather Willis, a future LSUS public relations major, drove about 60 miles south from Sarepta to attend the preview on March 15.

Willis wanted to learn more about LSUS before attending. Some pros to Willis about LSUS are that it is close to home and has her major, but most importantly, as she heard, "It is a good school."

Soon-to-be forensic science major Stormy Cockrell, a high school senior at Hanesville High, also heard that LSUS was a good school and had an excellent science department.

Saturday was an informational day for prospective students and their parents to learn what campus life and classrooms are like.

The day started at 8 a.m. with a complimentary Continental

breakfast at the Port. Students and parents had time to mingle and eat to prepare for the day.

Next, an orientation and welcome was given in the U.C. Theater by Gloria Raines, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, and Kristy Paul, assistant director of admissions.

The orientation was followed by a student services program in the UC Theatre by Kristy Paul; Betty McCrary, financial aid; Paula Lewis, student development and counseling; Brian Hirsch, Career Center; Sharon Manson, University Court Apartments; and Kathleen Grimmer, Student Activities.

Students were then given a campus tour to better familiarize themselves with the campus through visits to the colleges of Business, Education, Liberal Arts and Science.

The admissions office encourages currently enrolled students to visit the admissions Web site at www.admissions@pilot.lsus.edu.

Entering freshmen or first time students who missed the preview can set up campus tours through the Web site or by calling the admissions office at 797-5061 to set up an appointment Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Requirements for first-time students are posted on the Web site and include filling out an application for admissions either online or in the admissions office and presenting an immunization form, a copy of ACT or SAT scores and transcripts from previous schools.

College of sciences offers various projects, enrichment programs

by Christy Long

The College of Sciences offers its majors a competitive edge by using hands-on projects in conjunction with traditional classroom education.

The three departments that comprise the College of Sciences have developed several activities which fit the needs and skill levels of their students.

The establishment of a new core lab facility will assist the students in learning to handle sophisticated lab equipment. The equipment originally belonged to the LSU Health Sciences Center and was later donated to the college.

The equipment is currently being stored in the Red River Watershed Management Institute until the college is ready to use the donation to train its students.

Dr. Stephanie Aamodt said, "the core lab facility will primarily be environmental science but we expect to have some students who are biochemistry majors, chemistry majors and biological sciences majors being trained in the lab. We see this as a real benefit to the students because it will give them experience with equipment and research."

While the students are currently receiving various types of hands-on training, several programs are being put together to further the types of activities that students can

"Every student that graduates from the college of sciences should have something they know how to do very, very well – not just an abstract degree."

Dr. William Vekovious
dean of college of sciences

participate in.

Special events are currently being planned which will give students a chance to "get out in the field" during the spring semester.

Many of the students in the College of Sciences are focused on careers in the allied health professions. To that end, the various departments seek to bring in guest speakers to give students exposure to projects that are important to those careers.

"Every student that graduates from the College of Sciences should have something they know how to do very, very well — not just an abstract degree," said Dr. Al Vekovious, dean of the College of Sciences.

Nationally recognized chemists and returning graduates also offer students a great amount of insight on the challenges that they face.

Traditionally people who think

of science think of chemistry, biology and physics.

However, the College of Sciences also encompasses courses in math, computer science and environmental science.

In fact, the college awards master's degrees in the fields of computer science and information technology.

For students who still cannot see themselves fitting into sciences classes but must complete a science or math requirement to graduate, Vekovious offers a piece of advice:

"Come to class prepared even if that means dropping back and taking a preparatory course. Come to class every time, do the homework, and be sure to take advantage of the help we have on campus in the form of labs and professors. If you do that you can pass."

Wanna write?

Sign up for MCom 270 to earn credit for writing for the Almagest this fall.

Call 797-5328 for details.

Intramurals: Student Activities plans to implement new outdoor activities

Continued from Pg. 1

lot of credit for his knowledge and ability. All of our successes are due to his hard work as well as other student workers." Schmidt also said that because of this group of workers he was able to hit the ground running with his new position.

Chereene, who currently serves as assistant to the coordinator, was part of the search committee responsible for hiring Schmidt.

"It was a great opportunity for me to experience the interviewing process firsthand," said Chereene. The search process consisted of conference calls and in-person interviews.

Although student participation is up, some intramural participants say administration and faculty are not always considerate of these extracurricular activities.

"I think the support lacks in the administration. The clubs you join want all of your time, and the administration wants all of your time," said James Marin, sophomore business administration management

"I think the support lacks in the administration. The clubs you join want all of your time and the administration wants all of your time."

James Marin

sophomore business administration management

major.

Foreign language professor Lilian Moskeland says she feels extracurricular activities like the intramural sports program are important as long as academics are not put in second place.

Moskeland also said that as an instructor at a commuter college "you have to consider that they hold jobs and have children, but I don't think I or anyone else should water down the courses because of that. We owe it to the students to be passionate about the work."

Participating in the sports as a

player is not the only option students have.

Students also serve as referees and coaches for the teams. However, junior business administration major Steven Mabry says players in some of the sports are not such good "sports" during the games.

Basketball, which is the most popular sport of the intramural program, is also the most competitive, according to Mabry. "In basketball every call is a problem," he said. "But when the game is over there is no grudge, so I just turn my ears off, open my eyes and blow the whistle."

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Pilots lose slugfest

by Chris Moore
Sports Editor

The LSUS offense scored 11 runs, but it wasn't enough to win, as Pilot pitchers gave up 13 earned runs in a 14-11 March 14 loss to the University of Mobile. The Pilots dropped into a first-place tie in the GCAC, as they relinquished a one-game lead over UM.

Starter Tony Ferguson had a rare bad outing as he failed to get an out before leaving the game in lieu of Daniel Welch. The usually accu-

rate Ferguson walked three and gave up five earned runs before retiring to the showers. LSUS regained the lead in the fourth, when they scored two runs to make it 6-5, but the UM bats came alive again in the sixth as they scored six runs to retake the lead.

Third baseman Wesley Gray banged out two hits in five tries with two RBIs, while Tyson Arishenkoff was 1 for 4 with a three-run double. Ben Wingerter tacked on two RBIs with a 2-for-5 performance, and outfielder Ramsey Branch had three hits and an RBI. Welch pitched five innings for the Pilots, giving up five

Score by innings:	R	H	E
Mobile	500	006	030
LSUS	040	020	113
Win - Dobson. Loss - Welch 2-1. Save - None.			

hits and five earned runs before giving way to freshman T.J. Thompson.

Thompson gave up three earned runs and seven hits in two innings of work.



Photo by Matt Morris
Pitcher Gene Stevens throws a pitch during Saturday's losing effort against conference rivals from the University of Mobile

Pilots fall to Statesmen

by Chris Moore
Sports Editor

LSUS was shut out for the second time this season in a 4-0 March 13 loss to Delta State University. Pilot pitcher Levi Montoya gave up only four hits, but one of them was a three-run homer in the fifth inning. He was charged with four earned runs and the loss. LSUS left fielder Cole Reynolds had two hits in four tries, while third baseman Wesley

Gray had a double.

Freshman pitchers David Alexander and Brandon Ezernack finished up the game for the Pilots, holding DSU scoreless the rest of the game.

Score by innings:	R	H	E
Delta	010	030	000
LSUS	000	000	000
Win - Willis. Loss - Montoya 1-2. Save - None.			

LSUS routs Paul Quinn

by Chris Moore
Sports Editor

With run totals more resembling football scores than baseball scores, the Pilots annihilated the Tigers of Paul Quinn College, 22-1 and 11-1, in a March 11-12 two-game series.

In the first game, LSUS brought sixteen men to the plate in the first inning, as they scored 11 runs on their way to the easy win.

Designated hitter Aaron McRae increased his RBI total to 31 with a three-run blast in the first.

Third baseman Wesley Gray was 2 for 2 with a double and an RBI, and hot-hitting Tyson Arishenkoff had two hits in three at bats with two RBIs.

Second baseman Myles Fletcher was 2 for 3 with an RBI, while Miguel Hernandez and Tyler Lewis were both 2 for 2 with three RBIs. Lewis picked up his RBIs with three-run homer in the second. Right fielder Justin Ketchum added two RBIs with a 1-for-3 game.

Pitcher Mitch Jones picked up the win for the Pilots with four innings of work. He gave up just three hits and an earned run while striking out one.

First game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
Paul Quinn	010	00	1
LSUS	(11)90	2	22
Win - Jones 1-0. Loss - Soto. Save - None.			

Second game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
Paul Quinn	010	00	1
LSUS	208	01	11
Note: None out, 0 runner(s) LOB when the game ended.			
Win - Kowatz. Loss - Calhoun. Save - None.			

In the second game, the big inning for LSUS came in the third as they crossed the plate eight times. Center fielder Austin Davis had a double and a triple with an RBI, while Myles Fletcher and Ben Wingerter were both 2 for 3 with two RBIs.

Wingerter also had a triple. Justin Ketchum added a double and two RBIs to the winning effort.

Left-hander Frank Kowatz pitched four innings, giving up only two hits and one earned run.

Baseball schedule

March 20 - Mid-American Bible Univ. 4:00 p.m. LSUS

March 21 - @William Carey College 6:00 p.m. Hattiesburg, Miss.

March 22 - @William Carey College 1:00 p.m. Hattiesburg, Miss.

March 25 - @Houston Baptist University 1:00 p.m. Houston

March 27 - Augustana College 4:00 p.m. LSUS

March 28 - @Belhaven College 6:30 p.m. Jackson, Miss.

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FIGHT MAN (^.^) No. 9

I HATE RETAIL by Abe Fashho

I hate retail. This may seem like an open subject to vent my hate for the retail clothing business, but I've been working in this line of business since I was 9 years of age so I think I have the right to bitch and scream about it.

It's the customers. It must have been the greatest and stupidest phrase in the world to say, "The customer is always right." Well they're not and never will be. For some reason, when a customer goes into any establishment they think they're God or a divine being shopping in the "peasant" area of the city. Now I'm not saying all customers are butt-holes, but the great customers always get overshadowed by the butt-hole ones that come in 24/7, and that really stinks. In my days growing up and working in retail I've noticed that customers have gotten dumber every time they walk in the door, and I mean every TIME! They're lucky they even remember where the door is or even what it is and how it works with every visit they make to a retail shop especially in downtown. Once they get inside it's all downhill from there. One example, a salesperson is there to help a customer find what he or she is looking for, the whole Wal-Mart approach, with a smile. Screw the smile, when a customer walks in they say, "I'm just browsing, and I don't need help" and you know that's total bull****. Instead, reverse psychology comes into play and indirectly

what they meant was, "Yes, I could use your help, do you the time to listen to my obscure, horribly detailed description of an article of clothing in a neon shade, with no buttons on it, a flower on the breast pocket (particularly, a rose), a suit with a duck flap on it so it drags on the floor, a hat with lights, an Italian tie with the silkworms still on it (made in China), shoes with reflectors so when I walk into a room I want people to look at my shining left and right, and a pair of dress slacks with one leg spilt in half with pinstripes going through it including gold buttons decorating the ass of the pants?" There's a lot more, trust me, and it went on for 30 minutes. That's just the tip of the iceberg.

Take into notice that we cater to drunks, crack heads, prostitutes, animals, whining children, annoying (matching everything on themselves, including body odor) couples, church groups (God, I hate church groups), pot smokers and dealers, 17 member families (not exact number — could be more or less, and they all come for one person, to pick one thing, ONLY), people who stare at each other, cheap (VERY CHEAP, they cut pennies in half) bastards, the know-it-all's, pimps (and they think we don't know when we see one, they got "the hat", they say, "where's my money", and platform shoes), cops, wannabe rap stars or "Gan-sta-sus" in their mega-homie crew, really big butt-holes, crazy drifters (they're always great for a laugh any day of the week), soccer moms, fashion experts (or at least they think they are, I'm not saying I am), and a bunch of other different types of individuals or groups that do nothing, but annoy and bug the hell out of me and my fellow workmates when all they can do is keep it simple, including a DAMN clue of what he or she or it wants to purchase. What a policy, but nobody follows it. One thing I'm sure of is that whomever or whatever is reading this piece right now can relate or understand what I just explained. In one part of your life you've worked in retail and hated it, or loved it, had a tragic episode, and now hate it with all your heart. That's what I call the real attitude of the salesperson behind the cover smile.

Where in life is there a book or manual that all humans have passed to them in life, that says, "oh yeah, when you walk into a store think of something stupid to ask for, embarrass the salesperson to high hell, and haggle, haggle, haggle." Remember, it's the customer's job to make the next 7 hours of your workday a living hell, and never make eye contact; it's like signing a contract with your own blood (that's when you become the customer). But hey, if it wasn't for the customer I would not have the money to buy the computer that I'm typing this article on, so thank you, customer, or in reality annoying disease of the human race! "Excuse me sir, but does this article come in a maroon, no-collar set, in a double extra-LARGE?" I hate retail.



TODAY'S LESSON: Retail sucks big time, but hey it's work and you need the money

right? If you can just be yourself in your work environment (no fake smile policy), and avoid the stupid questions and ranting of the "fly" customers (the butt-hole one's) that buzz in every once and a while, then your workday will be just great. If not, join the army (heh).



Calendar of events

All events are in the University Center unless otherwise indicated. If your organization would like to be featured in the calendar of events e-mail us at almagest@pilot.lsu.edu.

		Thurs. March 20	Fri. March 21	Sat. March 22	Sun. March 23
		8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Major Declaration Day	12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Greek Council meeting	10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Drama Club Technical Rehearsals	2 p.m. - 5 p.m. TKE meeting Webster Room
		10:30 a.m. SGA meeting Webster Room	6 p.m. Baseball: @ William Carey College (Hattiesburg)	1 p.m. Baseball: @ William Carey College (Hattiesburg)	4 p.m. - 9 p.m. ZTA meeting Louisiana A & B
		4 p.m. Baseball: Mid-American Bible University (Home)	LAESP Book Fair	9 p.m. Crossroads BCM	5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Phi Mu meeting
		LAESP Book Fair			6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Panhellenic meeting
					7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Sigma Nu meeting
Mon. March 24	Tues. March 25	Wed. March 26	Thurs. March 27	Fri. March 28	Sat. March 29
3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. BCM Bible Study Pilots Room	9 a.m. - 2 p.m. LifeShare Blood Drive UC Lobby	12 p.m. Lunch & devotional BCM	10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Phi Eta Sigma meeting Desoto Room	12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Fraternity Council meeting Pilots Room	1 p.m. Baseball @ Belhaven College (Jackson)
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. LifeShare Blood Drive UC Lobby	1 p.m. Baseball @ Houston Baptist University (Houston)	7 p.m. - 9 p.m. ZTA meeting Pilots Room	6 p.m. Baseball: Augustana College (Home)	6:30 p.m. Baseball @ Belhaven College (Jackson)	9 p.m. Crossroads BCM
	8 p.m. Worship Service BCM				
Spring Break begins!					
Sun. March 30					